

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 166481 TOSEC 180008

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO KENYATTA

REF: STATE 166469

1. I READ PARA TWO REFTEL TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA AT STATE HOUSE NAKURU 1000 TODAY. ONLY THE TWO OF US WERE PRESENT. HE ASKED ME TO READ IT TWICE. KENYATTA WAS VISIBLY MOVED BY GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION SAYING, "I CANNOT FIND WORDS TO THANK HIM (SECRETARY KISSINGER)."

2. IN REPLY TO KENYATTA'S WONDERING HOW USG MIGHT HELP KENYA, I STATED MANNER AND MEANS WOULD DEPEND ON SITUATION. PRESSED TO SPECULATE, AND EMPHASIZING THAT VIEWS WERE ENTIRELY MY OWN AND NOT DEPARTMENT'S, I SAID U.S. COULD POSSIBLY POSITION SHIPS OFF KENYA SHORE WHICH WOULD BE
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INTERPRETED AS SUPPORT; OR COULD SPEAK ON KENYA'S BEHALF

WITH OTHER NATIONS. REGARDING USE OF TROOPS -- WHICH
"COOPERATE FULLY" OF SECRETARY'S MESSAGE MIGHT IMPLY, I
HASTENED TO CAUTION THAT U.S. CONGRESS WOULD MOST LIKELY
VIEW SUCH ACTION UNFAVORABLY, BUT THEN RE-EMPHASIZED THAT
"COOPERATE FULLY" WAS, INDEED, THRUST OF MESSAGE.

3. I ASKED KENYATTA FOR HIS VIEWS ON PRESENT SITUATION.
DID HE BELIEVE AMIN MIGHT BE SO ANNOYED AT KENYAN
COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL THAT HE MIGHT ATTACK KENYA. "MAYBE,"
KENYATTA REPLIED, "IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE."

4. OUT OF CONCERN THAT KENYATTA MIGHT NOT BE IN GOOD
HEALTH OR CURRENTLY INFORMED ON SITUATION, I SAID
TO HIM THAT IT WAS OUR BELIEF AS OBSERVERS THAT IF
SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN IT MIGHT OCCUR QUITE SUDDENLY.
I ASKED WHETHER I MIGHT BE HEARING FROM HIM DIRECTLY,
OR PERHAPS THROUGH ONE OF HIS MINISTERS. I MENTIONED
KOINANGE'S AND NJONJO'S NAMES. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE
WOULD HANDLE THE MATTER AND WOULD REPLY IF NECESSARY TO
SECRETARY KISSINGER THROUGH ME, HIMSELF.

5. KENYATTA REPEATED, ON PARTING, "I CANNOT FIND WORDS
TO THANK HIM (SECRETARY KISSINGER)," AND ADDED, "IT IS
THE TRUE FRIEND WHO COMES TO OUR HELP WHEN WE ARE IN
NEED, THAT IS WHEN TRUE FRIENDS ARE KNOWN."

6. KENYATTA APPEARED WEAK BUT ALERT DURING MEETING.
HIS EYES LOOKED SOMEWHAT GLAZED, PERHAPS FROM MEDICATION.
HE ROSE WITH DIFFICULTY TO GREET ME. DESPITE KENYATTA'S
RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT FURTHER CONTACT (PARA 4 ABOVE),
I HAVE DECIDED THAT KOINANGE AND/OR NJONJO SHOULD ALSO BE
MADE AWARE OF SUBSTANCE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE AND MY MEETING
WITH KENYATTA AND AM ATTEMPTING
TO CONTACT THEM.
MARSHALL UNQTE ROBINSON

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